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MR VERA'S Independent JOURNAL

NO. 30 February 28 1988 Atiu-Cook Islands

MR INGRAM CALLED IN_____

An a last ditch attempt to protect themselves and their land against an MP-led committee whose legal status has expired signing away their rights to a foreign speculator, Atiuan landowners have sent for lawyer MP and controversial opposition member, Vincent Ingram (above).

Says Mr. Ingram, "This is sure to be branded as a political move. It is nothing of the sort. I am prepared to finish a job I was originally asked to do - ensure fair negotiations for Maori landowners."

FULL STORY - INSIDE.

VANILLA SCHEME

ECONOMICS

DIEU MERCI, THE LAWYERS SAY NO!

~DURESS, THREATS AND BULLYING IN SIX HOUR HARASSMENT CLAIM LAND REPS

SPECIAL REPORT

The escalating crisis of confidence in the "Vanilla" affair reached the point last week when the multi million dollar project was being widely described as the biggest scandal in modern CIs. land affairs.

FOLLOW IN FULL AND MAKE UP YOUR OWN MIND AS THE JOURNAL PRESENTS THE LATEST MOVES

TAOKOTAIANGA

"FAATEA I TO'U FENUA!"

INSIDE

MR VERA'S Independent JOURNAL

a national publication.

P.O. ATIU C.I.S.

Cook Islands

The JOURNAL offers a weekly review of news, commentary and features at home and abroad from a Cook Is. and Pacific Regional standpoint.

The JOURNAL is allied to no existing political party or faction.

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EDITOR: David Lewis.

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Editorial

A free press is of little use to a ruling government. Frequently, it is an irritating nuisance.

When passions fly high in the relations between government and the press, government's capacity to lash back is considerable.

Enflamed animosity between rulers and reporters in the Western press reached a high point in the Nixon years of the US Presidency when a Vice President (Spiro Agnew) was given the special responsibility for harrassing the media. ....the "nattering nabobs of negativism" as Agnew dubbed them.

For all its defects and limitations, the JOURNAL still represents the only "free" press around in our country.

The content of this issue is certain to enflame government members.

It is to be hoped that no Agnew is to be assigned responsibility to deal with us.

At a time when government win nothing in their controversial investment and land policies (as represented by Ledarco and Mr. Paratainga) portrayed in these pages, the public and our readers may at least give points to Mr. George for his continued support for a free press even when at this time, its existence is no inconsiderable threat to his career.

Press stories which "make the blood boil" are usually those which involve little people being ripped off by big people.

We have no hesitation in claiming that it is fair comment to suggest that the endless saga of the "Vanilla Project" contains many of the hallmarks of such stories.

Rich foreign entrepreneurs, anonymous "bankers", politicians fighting for their seats, harrassed local landowners apparently under extreme duress. ....all that seems to be lacking are the shyster lawyers who, defiantly breaking all the rules of the script, seem to be among the few in the whole affair emerging with an aura of justice and fair play.

It is unfortunate that twice in a year this paper has had to report on incidents involving the treatment of small-time local landowners as (to paraphrase the judgment of Mr. Dillon in the ELI affair) "dirty rags to be wiped off."

It is even more unfortunate that the "wipers" have been the most senior and trusted of Atiu's leaders representing an island once heralded as the "model" of coalition!

It is a special misfortune for the JOURNAL that the Vanilla Project deeply in-

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ECONOMICS

VANILLA

THINGS GET RATHER NASTY

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volves its owner, Ms. T. Kelly, younger sister of Tahiti's Vice President Georges Kelly and a member of prominent Atiuan and Rarotongan families.

For this reason alone, we should in normal circumstances disqualify ourselves from covering the story.

However, as CIsers know, unless the JOURNAL covers it, no one else in current production will... ..and the story is, we feel, the most important in the 4½ year life of Coalition Government.

Also, as the story itself reveals, conflict of interest on Atiu is less a problem than a way of life!

Our efforts in reporting for the second week in a row the Vanilla Affair are as dispassionate as possible, given that we are involved.

Our duty is not to ourselves. Ms. Kelly is in the process of seeking an injunction upon the activities of Ledarco, and the group of people claimed to be led by MP Mariri Partainga.

Our duty is to our readers to present a clear statement of events.

That we are unable to offer an opposing comment is not our fault. The pages of this paper are free to all. Mr. Paratainga refused us, stating he is to be judged "not by what I say but by what I do."

With no malice nor malevolence, we accept that challenge and can come to no other judgment than that, in our opinion, what Mr. Paratainga has done and continues to do to the landowners of Atiu in the Vanilla Affair is, as reported to us, scandalous.

We therefore invite him to use these pages to reply, in whatever form he wishes.

The JOURNAL believes that the MP should exercise his rights to a free press (as opposed to dictating a release to CIBNC) as local opinion conveyed to us from many quarters indicates that his actions and involvement with M. Lehartel and un-named others are placing his political career in extreme jeopardy.

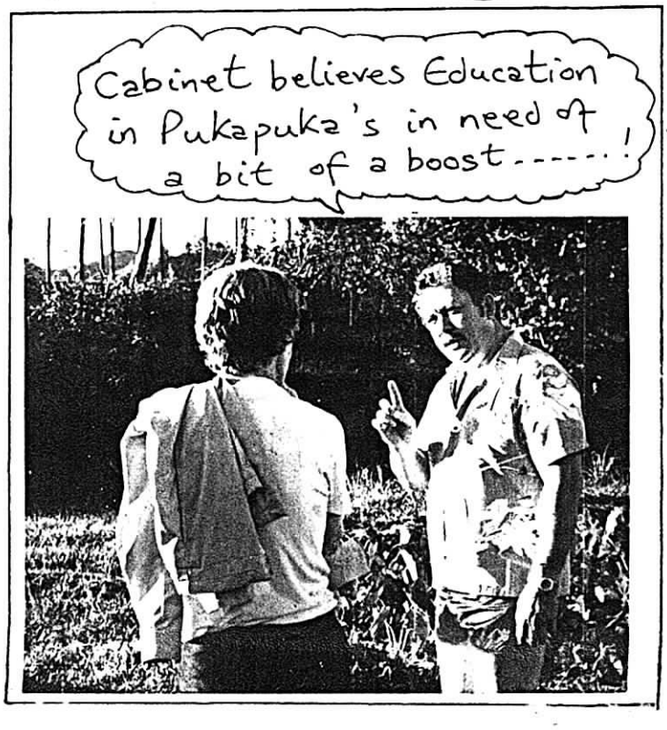
In similar jeopardy also, is the career of Minister of Foreign Affairs Norman George, implicated last weekend by M. Lehartel as party to what at least two "committee members" have called "a sell out of our land."

For this reason, we maintain our open endorsement of Mr. George's conduct last week and print, in his interests, a private comment to us.

Entering into the affair again is Mr. Ingram, now formerly appointed by one block of landowners to represent them.

We also offer, with permission from the "committee" secretary and Mr. Ingram some of his opinons.

Ms. Kelly (left)



February 28 1988

VANILLA SCHEME SPECIAL REPORT

CHAPTER SEVEN

THE HEAVIES STRIKE BACK

SCENE: A sewer on the left bank. Midnight.

ENTER: Parisian apache, heavily disguised as a Polynesian entrepreneur complete with oily beret, Canterbury flanker's jersey, well-pressed bermuda shorts and gauloise protruding from moustachio'd lip.

Apache: Hein. Zut alors. Merde. Vive la compagnie et cetera.

ENTER: Itinerant Moll, heavily disguised as an MP, complete with per diem uplift safari suit, doused in Ansett toilet water and followed by three floating voters looking for tickets to the Folies.

Moll: Psst.

Apache: Hein. Zut alors. Pissez off etc.

Moll: Wanna buy a dirty piece of land ?

FOR SALE

Exotic 740 acre tropical untouched, unhurried, untroubled piece of heavan on earth.

Standard attributes of business Paradise guaranteed...

*Dumb peasant willing to work for whatever they're given

* No unions

* Politicians looking for re-election

* Climate of ignorance

* Tax and immigration negotiable

* Controlled media

* Plenty girls

Clearance of existing vanilla crop unertaken in return for cash payment.

Suitable for casino, Californian retirement chalets, nudist colony, Mafia laundry massage motels etc.

Write c/o Francois 3rd Bridge on the Right, Paris.

NO, BUT SERIOUSLY—

On Thursday 18 February, yet another of the seemingly endless succession of Lehartel-Parataingа whistle stop flights to Atiu arrived.

This time, one or two "committee" members had been alerted overnight. They had no prior knowledge, as with all the many previous visits, of an agenda nor of the purpose of the visit.

Other members knew nothing until summoned to the CAO's residence.

(Almost all such meetings, it appears, have been given the status of government ventures and have heavily involved Mr. Parataingа, greeted as MP, the CAO and the Chairman (Mayor) of the Island Council. ED)

Whether privately working or PSC employees, members were summoned to the CAO's residence, if necessary by car.

One, as a public servant, was denied permission to go in accordance with PSC regulations.

No opportunity watsoever was given for members to seek advice from landowners they represent.

(This, too, is reported to be normal practice as the members appear to have assumed total executive powers for most of the past four years and are unawarethat that their legal term of office has expired..as confirmed by Crown Law. ED)

Reports by members to the public indicate that little of substance was achieved at the meeting.

Present was an unknown European, believed to be a partner of M. Lehartel, whom no landowner had apparently ever heard of!

This person was reported to have asked several probing questions regarding manpower and general Atiuan resources.

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VANILLA

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The upshot of the meeting was reported as being that four committee members would be flown to Rarotonga on the Friday...the purpose, said one member, unsure.

Said a landowner when hearing of the plan, "let them take a free trip at Lehartel's expense...they know they can't sign anything."

The two families who had reported to MP Norman George the previous week that they were pulling out were not invited.

However, by now suspecting (according to a family spokesman) "something fishy", one of them issued authority to Mr. Ingram to represent them as the original (and still, it is believed) landowners' negotiator.

Ms. Kelly of the JOURNAL issued similar instructions to Mr. Ingram and, as a courtesy, copied the instructions to Mr. George.

Mr. Ingram was alerted as a senior Kelly family representative in the Cook Islands and after Mr. George had been requested to try to advise Mr. Parataiinga against actions widely felt to be autocratic and against his and Atiuan landowners' interests.

NOTE:

In March last year Ms. Kelly was awarded an occupation right on her mother's family land in the block known as Areii 56.

On later hearing suggestions that her land was part of land needed for vanilla, she approached her family who assured her that the land was not part of any agreed incorporation that they recognised.

A month later, Mr. Parataiinga organised the clearance of the land on behalf of Mr. Lehartel.

On the advice of Mr. Tepou Boaza (Atiu Office), Mr. Moe Boaza (CAO), Mr. Teiotu Tangatapoto (Chairman of the Island Council) and Mr. Parataiinga (MP), she accepted to move her claim across the public road to the foreshore side of the block.

She stated at the time, "I do no want to cause problems to anything to do with Atiu's affairs."

She accordingly requested her family to award her a half acre and a planting site on the beach side.

This the family did.

She was granted the occupation right by the High Court in Atiu.

Mr. Parataiinga and M. Lehartel would not discuss matters arising out of the claimed incorporation and Mr. Georges Kelly instructed his sister to ask the family to refrain from signing any document involving possible Kelly family rights.

Leaders of the family have stated publicly to M. Leahrtel's lawyer in the presence of Mr. Parataiinga that they do not recognise the incorporation's claims on the land in question.

As will be seen, both Mr. Parataiinga and M. Lehartel have ignored this statement.

Ms. Kelly has so far, she claims, gone as far as she can to accommodate Mr. Parataiinga and M. Lehartel. She has spent so far over $2000 securing tenure to a piece of half acre makatea scrubland with no power or water facilities far from town or any other dwelling.

Consequently, she informed the "commitee" "out of courtesy" that she was issuing injunction proceedings against the actions of Ledarco and the Incorporation.

That, too, it is reported, was ignored.

Hence, next week, Mr. Ingram has been invited to come to Atiu to brief her and any other members of the Areii Block family.

A similar invitation has gone out to the two other early negotiators Mr. Poko Tutaka and Mr. Nono Tearea to accompany him.

Ms. Kelly has little money left. She does not speak English.

She does, however, have a relative (Mr. Ingram) and the resources of the JOURNAL.

Without them, she would certainly be landless, crushed by the combined power of the Cook Islands Government, its Atiuan representatives (Mr. George apart) and M. Lehartel and his nameless foreign associates.

An Atiuan landowner does not have the resources, communications access, education or English of the group who fought the 1985-6 Avana Project battle.

Without the JOURNAL and without Mr. Ingram and without the rigid ethics shown by Clarke's, she could well lose her land.

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SIEGE MENTALITY — ARMED AND READY

VERA VANILLA

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How many, one wonders, already have ?

ED.

To resume the events of last weekend, the JOURNAL has pieced together the following account given to us by eye-witnesses. We are assured that the same account will be given to all landowners.

The members of the committee arrived in Rarotonga and were met by Mr. Parataínga.

They were taken to the Atiu Hostel and told there would be a meeting.

They contacted Mr. Tepou Boaza who assured them that he and Mr. Norman George would be joining them.

They were taken to a room in Clarke's offices in Avarua and met Mr. Parataínga, M. Lehartel and an unnamed person claimed to be called "Edouard".

They were led to understand that urgency was required in signing the Ledarco/Incorporation lease.

A confused and alarming story was given the JOURNAL of events over the next six hours.

Two of the four members told us that they were very confused throughout.

They claimed that they understood little of the legal matters discussed.

They claimed that they were shouted at and that frequently M. Lehartel cross-talked in French.

"I don't understand his English very well. I don't speak French. He doesn't speak Maori. It was terribly confusing."

VANILLA SCHEME

SPECIAL REPORT

This was the statement to us of one member, who added,

"We asked for a lawyer, Mr. Ingram preferably, but Mr. Parataínga said he didn't want lawyers and we had no money to pay them.

(Mr. Ingram has told us that at no time has he expected money for his advice and that he has stated that his services would be free ED).

Mr. Parataínga also said that Mr. Ingram anyway had seen and approved the lease.

(Mr. Ingram categorically denies this statement which was also publicly made on Atiu by Mr. Parataínga.)

Members said they tried to present amendments agreed upon in front of Mr. George following Crown Law advice.

One stated that M. Lehartel said he would only look at these after the lease had been signed.

The withdrawal of two families at the previous week's meeting with Mr. George was brought up.

M. Lehartel was reported as stating he refused to accept this and that the land "was his and the incorporations' business only.

The question of using the land before a lease had been signed was brought up.

M. Lehartel is said to have claimed he had Mr. George's, Mr. Parataínga's and the Government's approval to operate on Atiu land!

He produced a letter (a copy of which has been seen by the JOURNAL) dated July 9 1986 signed by Mr. George and Mr. Parataínga giving him full support on behalf of the Atiu people to operate.

It is upon this letter that M. Lehartel is said to claim his authority to be currently planting upon Areii Block land in co-operation with the Agriculture Department and paid labour.

Our informants claim that two threats were made.

It is claimed that M. Lehartel stated that unless the lease was signed he would not look at any amendments.

It is also claimed that a veiled suggestion that the project would be moved to Mauke was used to create further confusion amongst landowners' representatives.

After an estimated six hours, in the words of one member, "we just wanted to go home, so we signed and he promised to take our amendments with him and write them in."

At this point, it was apparently decided to bring in a lawyer to certify the signatures.

Mr. Arnold of Clarke's was contacted.

When he arrived, he is said to have refused to sign a certification of the lease.

"Mr. Parataínga got mad as he had done several times," said a committee member.

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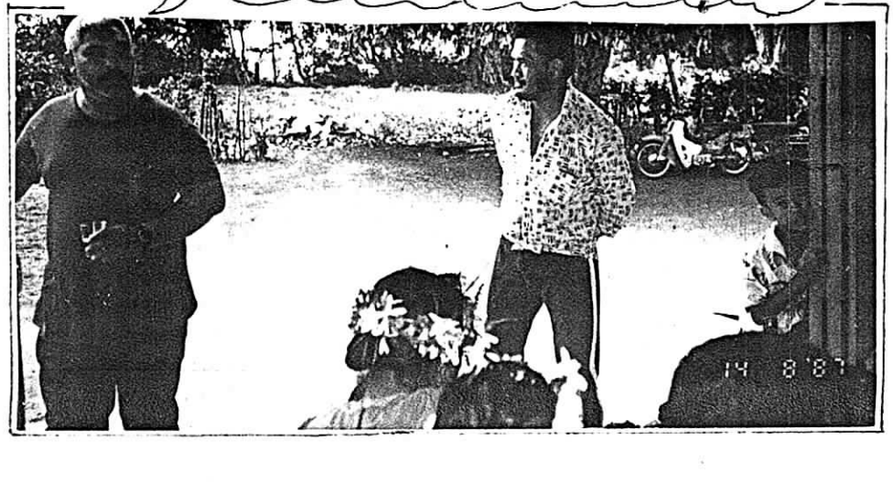
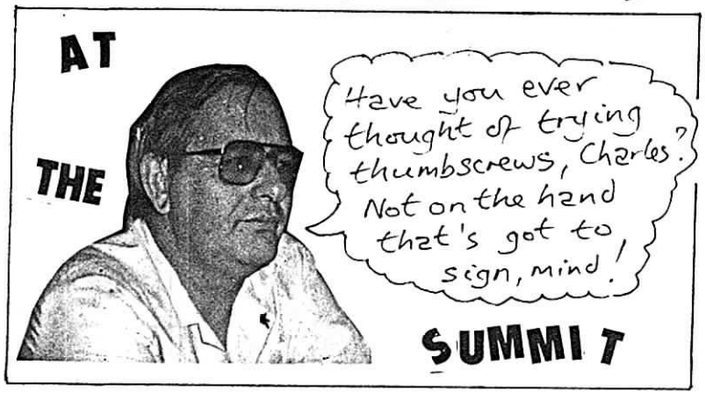
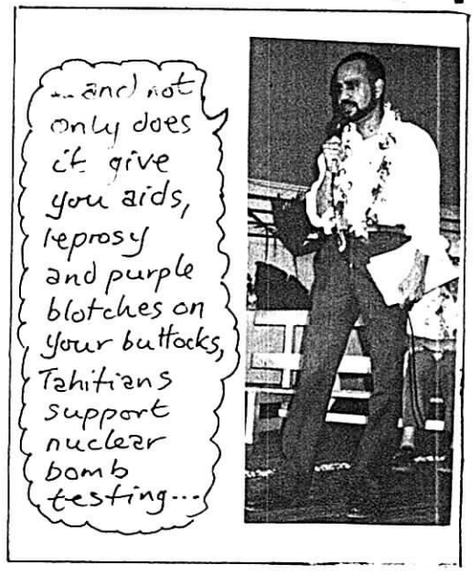
REALISATION DAWNS







VANILLA

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Another lawyer, Mr. Henry Puna was sent for.

He, too, refused to certify the lease.

NOTE: The above is an accurate transcript of interviews conducted with two lady members of the committee.

We have received no conflicting reports and reports are now widespread on Atiu.

Our report on the following day's events at Air Rarotonga terminal are given by Mr. Ingram.

He states, "I was informed of the party's departure and went to the airport to make sure I could defend myself in front of the landowners on Mr. Parataiinga's now frequent claim that I had approved the lease.

"I told him publicly that I had not and that I did not wish him to continue saying I had.

"There was an altercation between him and me. I wanted this to be public so that he would be out in the open in front of the landowners so that they could hear that what he was saying was not true."

The bewilderment of the whole weekend seemed summed up by one lady member who told us, "I was in tears at times. It was not fair. And now I have to face the landowners knowing that I did not follow their instructions. I'm sorry but I did my best. They are right if they blame me."

THE LEGAL OPINIONS

"I categorically deny that I have approved the lease..." Mr. Ingram (by permission from Mrs. M. Teamoke, Secretary).

"The position is now that there is a signed lease apparently which no lawyer has been willing to certify, which has been signed under apparent duress, which has not been referred back to the landowners, which has not been translated into Maori and which is quite unacceptable to the High Court." Mr. Ingram

"The clause (No. 2 of the lease) as it stands would allow almost any activity whatsoever....clause 3 (royalty payments) seems to contemplate income from a variety of activities including tourism, mining and other business...."

Crown Law opinion issued to landowners by Mr. George (also noting that non-vanilla activities would require Monetary Board approval which provides "some protection")

"...at the present time, the terms of office of all committee members HAS EXPIRED.....
..AND A NEW COMMITTEE MUST BE ELECTED...
(Our capitals)

Crown Law Office

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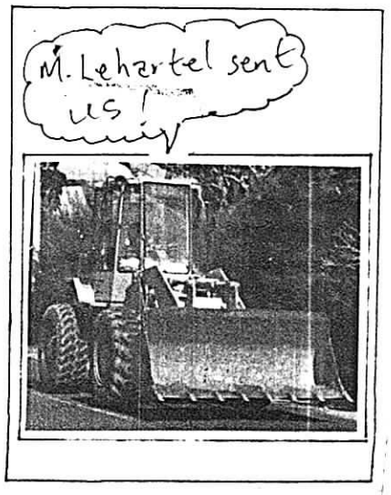

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*The above refers to the committee of management chaired by Mr. Paratainga. Mr. Paratainga has held no AGM, has presented no formal report to landowners, has held many meetings without minutes and has assumed well-nigh total executive powers even long after his office legally lapsed. ED.

"...the shareholders have a duty to make sure their rights are protected."

paraphrase of Judge Dillon's summary at the Liquidation of ELI.

*Following the liquidation of ELI following a costly but successful battle by shareholders to get their land back, at Mr. Paratainga's instigation a secret meeting was held under confidential cover which resulted in the setting up of a new company ADS backed by government and run by the same group chastised by Judge Dillon. The similarities of procedure and conduct between the ELI affair and the Vanilla Affair are increasingly noted by Atiuans.

What, obviously, appears to be a matter of simple procedure is that the Secretary of the Incorporation must immediately summon an AGM of all landowners and follow the procedure of the Act.

Until that takes place, Mr. Lehartel has no business on Atiu land and seems ill-advised to proceed as he is doing.

The whole affair seems to be inviting hostile proceedings parallelling The ELI affair.

"FAATEA I TO'U FENUA!"

The Vanilla Affair is about land. Hence it is commercial, political, legal, cultural, philosophical and, above all, emotional. This JOURNAL surveys attempts to cover all aspects of a matter which strikes at the heart of modern Cook Islands life.

Unless....that is, M. Lehartel and his company and the leaders of Atiu contrive to take it away from her. If they do, she will be one more dispossessed Maori victim of a society which is increasingly failing to offer its citizens the power to decide their own destiny.

M. Lehartel and his company have **not** deigned to consider the question of this little girl's land nor that of many totally bewildered Maoris involved in the so-called Atiu Vanilla Project....a product of a negotiation between M. Lehartel and successive CIs. governments whereby Atiuans were required to set up a quasi "Incorporation of Land" and hand it over to M. Lehartel.

The elected "committee" (including Mr. Paratainga) have now signed away that land, refusing in the name of their chairman to take legal advice and having refused in the name of their chairman to allow a concerned family the opportunity to express their worries.

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A CHEAP SHOT

It is impossible for M. Lehartel or his international "partners to comprehend the place an eighth of an acre of makatea can hold in the life perspective of an otherwise dispossessed Maori without the advantages of money, education, experience or an international language within which to operate.

It quickly becomes impossible for the likes of MP's to remember (if indeed they ever experienced life from such a perspective)

The little girl above is likely to live her life from such a perspective. She is the adopted daughter of Ms. Kelly and she will inherit rights to the one half an acre which is all that is left of Ms. Kelly's rights on Atiu after three generations of enforced economic exile in the land of M. Lehartel. The one quarter of one half an acre is the only land this little girl is guaranteed will one day be her own.

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The little girl's adoptive uncle has thus been called in. He will be asked to advise M. Lehartel, Mr. Parataínga and his committee and any agent of the Cook Islands government that if so much as one of them set one foot upon the occupation right in question or threaten, harass or bully any member of the family in question, the police have been instructed to act.

Only a judge in the High Court of the Cook Islands will touch that land.

Its attempted seizure by M. Lehartel with the agreement of Mr. Parataínga was only averted by one of M. Lehartel's own lawyers, we hear.

It thus becomes what land has always been...a highly emotive issue. The chance for it to be rationally resolved is rapidly fading.

This is one little girl who will not lose her land and will not, in 35 years time, curse her guardians who gave it away meekly to businessmen and politicians.

*NB. The above article is an emotive and cheap trick. Similar, we feel, to flying Maori-speaking landowner representatives to Rarotonga, placing them under six hours of duress without recourse to a lawyer and demanding they sign over their clients' land , knowing full well that they have no right or authority to do so.

The family which owns the JOURNAL is deeply involved in the Vanilla issue, through no wish of their own. In view of their being no other protection or weapon for them to use, we have no qualms at placing the JOURNAL at their disposal and will offer the same courte y to anyone else.

The above outburst may offer some insight into the outrage felt by one family at having their land signed away by representatives of the people with no opportunity whatsoever to express their rightful feelings.

A CASE FOR MR. P.

Mr. Parataínga has only made one statement to the JOURNAL.

In 1987 he said, "Judge me by what I do, not what I say."

If that is indeed the case, there may be some hope for the MP yet! What he has done may appear to some to be foolish (to us it does!) but a summary of it can be made which offers a generous explanation.

With the interests and honour of an Atiu leader at heart, we hope the following represents such a summary and balances the picture, leaving some room for the reader to form his or her own conclusions:

1. He has assumed almost total executive power over a tame "yes-man" committee only rarely referring back to the landowners as a whole for advice."

SO WHAT ?

Papa Vainerere worked along those lines. It is accepted that when you elect someone, you give him freedom to act in your interests over the long term. Doing things the formal "papa'a" way is not Atiu's style. If you don't trust someone to act for you then don't elect him in the first place.

2. He has appeared to work closely to help and protect Lehartel's interests.

WHY NOT ?

If Atiu is to develop out of the feudal economy it is in now and create jobs for the people, it needs vast money which can only come from foreign investors. These foreign investors are rare. They have to be looked after and treated well. We want something from them and we are not in a position of strength.

3. He has ignored landowners protests.

WELL...

Maybe they are only a small group only thinking of themselves not of Atiu as a whole. Maybe they have to be sacrificed by a strong leader who has the courage to fight for his people as a whole. And, anyway, what they are arguing about is undeveloped land that they can't use and haven't used for centuries.

We make no comment but we believe the above to be generous and fair as we can be.

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Mr. Lehartel, presumably, rests his case on the assumption that politicians are more important in negotiations than landowner little people. That assumes he has benignly misunderstood a letter of goodwill from Mr. George and Mr. Paratainga.

It is hard to see how, even with limited English, he can persuade himself that affairs are in accordance with CIs. law as even his own lawyers seem hesitant on many aspects of the case.

What Mr. Parataainga SAYS, we accept from him, he is not finally to be judged by.

What he has said and what has been reported to us, we find unacceptable from an MP.

But, as he himself is ready to admit, he is hot-tempered and dominating.

No problem! Aren't we all!

We close by reiterating on Ms. Kelly's part that neither she nor the JOURNAL are in the least concerned about vanilla. Providing they are allowed to do things within proper CIs. Maori laws of protection, landowners have a right to do what they like with their land.

Just as Ms. Kelly has a right to defend her land to the bitter end by all means.

Which we shall continue to assist her to do!

Comment

The JOURNAL offers itself as a socialist publication. By this, is quite simply meant that, when commenting upon politics and socio-economics, we try to apply socialist tools of analysis. It is a simple standpoint.

Simple it may be, but, as we have found out over several weeks, the Vanilla Affair gets more complicated by the week.

It does not defy analysis, however.

Insight can be obtained by examining it within the structure of Atiuan affairs as a whole.

Mr. Parataainga is quite right. He is to be judged by what he does, not by what he says..... ..but not for the reasons, perhaps, that Mr. Parataainga may offer.

What he does, like many a CIs. politician, is assume the role within the social structure of the Paramount Chief.

The "post" was last occupied by Ngamaru in the nineteenth century who combined all leadership roles (including economic entrepreneur) and took upon himself the power of total executive decision-making.

It is the role assumed for himself

LAND MATTERS

Sir Thomas Davis, and all members of his coalition II together with Dr. Robati and Coalition III have been fundamentally wrong.

This country has no need for the type of "hands-off" free enterprise they invited in under the name of "foreign investment" from 1985 until now.

They may or may not have been well-meaning but what they have achieved, as symbolised by the Vanilla Project, is the dismantling of the controls on the economy and land exercised by Maoris....te iti tangata maori.

Land is what being a CIs. Maori is all about. Indigenous and immigrant citizens alike accept that as the definition of being part of the only one of the four Maori nations which is free and under its people's trust and care.

Petty rentals and peppercorn royalties apart, M. Lehartel's vision of Ipukarea Maori is of labour-selling employees, child and women pollenators from dispossessed ex-landowning families.

His vision is the recreation of the Tahitian maohi proletariat here.

Mr. Parataainga's vision appears to be a house in Raro, endless sitting allowances, a government salary and pension obtained not by mandate of the political party he once stood for but by taking steps to ensure that his people remain in a state of ignorance, unrepresented and victims of new friends he has found from overseas.

The Maori vision is the land.

The Maori people of the Cook Islands are one up on every other subsistence peasant on the planet.

They own their land. Maybe it only, as yet, means potential advantage, but it is theirs.

When they give it to a M. Lehartel for 35 years, they will be dead before the lease runs out.

Their grandchildren will curse them.

They will have broken a sacred trust.

No one, but no one, may interfere in a landowner's land rights.

Maori <u>is</u> land.

by Mr. Paratainga. He speaks of a vague 95% support (the minority being classified as troublemakers) and acts accordingly.

He is aided in this assumption by the structure of the Coaltion Government of which he forms a part. The Coalition recognises no party controls, offers no platform and no advance plan beyond a wishful "trust us and we'll get you what we think you want with the restraints off and using whatever methods might work from time to time."

However, Mr. Paratainga is not Paramount Chief, not by birth or the will of the people.

He is an MP elected by modern democratic process.

The contradiction causing alarm is that he has also opted out of that process in a way by crossing the floor and leaving the party on whose ticket he was elected.

The really deep and disturbing problem is that the social structure of Atiu is only capable of functioning under a Paramount Chief (hence Mr. Paratainga's actions are right) BUT, for many, many reasons, it can only function successfully in the modern, international world within the democratic structure (hence Mr. Paratainga is wrong)!

The ones who will profit from such crippling contradictions are NOT the Atiu people (whether 95% or .95% support them) but the foreign investors....unless the law pulls them up sharply (as it apparently has done).

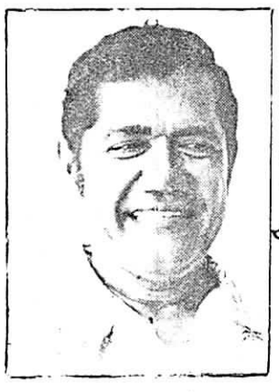
It is feasible for either structure (Paramount Chief controlled or MP controlled) to operate. Both have their merits in terms of protection of Maori rights.

What will truly harm the Maori people, we feel, is the confusion which must follow if the present contradictions continue to be acted out.

What is being proved, some may feel, is that there is a grave structural weakness in the operation of the Coalition. It is tending to lead, critics feel, to a dictatorship of the few rather than of the people.

There are strong grounds for arguing that the few are self-appointed.

In that case, objective commentators may tend to see merit in Mr. Henry and Mr. Ingram's call for an early return to properly programmed party politics.....where what you see is, by and large, what you get!



With one slight amendment, I must say that, quite sincerely readers, the final paragraph above is among the finest pieces of C.I.s. journalism published since 1985!

* Yet another of the many distinguished testimonies offered to the Head Office of Citizens' Association for the Rights of Vanilla Entrepreneurs United Party. (CARVE - UP)

ON THE SIDELINE

— MR GEORGE —

As has been noted elsewhere, the Vanilla issue involves the emotional question of land.

Emotions among some landowners on Atiu are running very high indeed.

Even so, it is hard to follow the reasoning that has currently been dragging in MP Norman George as jointly responsible for the present almighty ***!!!* -up!

It is a good populist move to hammer politicians in public meetings when they aren't there. So, it is only to be expected that catch-all cursing of politicians should include Mr. George.

The grounds appear to be that Mr. George did not put in an appearance in the now infamous "committee" meeting at Clarke's and that he seems to have been party to negotiations for a long time. Finally, M. Lehartel seems to have claimed that a letter co-signed by Mr. George gave him the right to operate on Atiu without reference to landowners.

The logic is false.

Everyone from Gavin Donne down to the humblest wage-worker now working on the experimental plot

continued next page

ON THE SIDELINE

continued

has been involved in the Vanilla Project. Only Perez de Cuellar and Mikhail Gorbachov seem missing from the all-star international bill.

If Mr. Lehartel chooses to distort a fairly harmless note of goodwill as a licence to rip into the Areii Block and lay waste to the tamanu, then that is hardly Mr. George's problem. It seems up to the landowners to prosecute for trespass.

That is their right and Mr. George, with the aid of Crown Law, went into painstaking detail a couple of weeks ago to make sure they DID know their rights.

If they go and allow themselves to disregard landowners' very clear instructions and let themselves be bulldozed into signing away land, then when they realise the mess they are in, the "committee" members seem hardly justified in attaching blame to the man who told them point blank not to act unless legally represented!

Mr. George wrote to us last week emphasising his stance.

"I will never allow my Atiu people to be ripped off," he wrote.

Said an Areii Block Landowner, "don't blame Norman if they can't stand up to Mariri. They were told by him and they ignored him. Now they're crying. They should have walked out as soon as anyone dared to shout at them."

MR INGRAM

Mr. Ingram has one main concern in visiting Atiu to assist landowners with advice.

"Of course," he said, "certain elements are going to shout "politics". and that worries me."

Mr. Ingram explained to us that he wished it to be made quite clear that he was travelling to Atiu because landowners have invited him as the legal adviser most recently entrusted with the drawing up of the Vanilla lease on their behalf.

He said he was also going because he was "sick" of hearing about Mr. Parataingа saying (firstly) that the lease had been approved by Mr. Ingram and (secondly) because he was sick of hearing Mr. Parataingа say that the incorporation could not afford a lawyer.

Mr. Ingram is donating his services free. His accommodation is provided by the Kelly family of which he is a respected senior member and first cousin to Ms. Kelly. His food is provided by the Areii Block family and other landowners.

"So there!" says Ms Kelly.

THE OTHERS

Final group on the sidelines is the 95% silent majority apparently claimed by Mr. Parataingа.

We searched one out.

The conversation was brief.

"I let Mariri decide."

"About your land ?"

"No about the vanilla."

"And what do you know about the vanilla lease."

"It's good for Atiu."

"Have you read it?".

"No."

"But you still approve it?"

"If Mariri says so."

The 5% presumably are those who would rather decide about their grandchildren's inheritance themselves!

Even the grimmest of stories can have its welcome humorous side...as at a recent landowners' meeting.

ANGRY LANDOWNER: Do you people realise that all your land from the sea to the village will belong to the Frenchman ?

THOUGHTFUL LANDOWNER (aside); So now we have the German (Coffee Manager Jurgen Manske) and the Frenchman. Maybe soon we'll have a war!

Editor's Note: There is no truth in the rumour that Ngatiarua is being renamed Switzerland for those who wish to remain neutral!

I think we'll sit this scheme out and wait for the next one...!

the END

Bzzzz!

SPORT

Tae Kwon-Do

Following our recent review of the local Taekwon-Do scene, we have received correspondence from the "other" group mentioned in our article.

In our report we stated that problems had arisen for the group formed by local youth under the leadership of Tupu Kaiaruna. We noted that "a new group was formed on the island by a visitor who was to be on the island, it appeared, for a brief period of two weeks."

Mr. Kaiaruna's original group recognised "Master Yun" as their international mentor. In a special letter to the JOURNAL, Mr. Tere Maorikava (Atiu) and Mr. Kaiou Ruaki (Mangaia) both NZ-based, defend their "group" and reveal the International Federation's verdict on "Master Yun".

Their article is supported by correspondence from the International Taekwon-Do Federation in Vienna, Austria.

Mr. Maorikava Tere writes.....

(article reduced owing to lack of space.

I am in support of youth organising and running sporting programmes and these four young men deserve hearty congratulations for their efforts and enthusiasm.

I am Atiuan born and raised and take great pride in my home and it is my intention in the very near future to move back home and do my bit to promote Taekwon-Do.

When I was in Atiu over Christmas, I had already planned to form a Tae Kwon-Do school there and I had no knowledge that there was one already in existence.

Taekwon-Do has been my life in NZ.

I am very proud of the efforts of Tangaina Takaiti, his assistant Ngavaine Iona and the elected Committee as well as the efforts and progress of the students.

My involvement in Taekwon-Do spans 25 years within the I.T.F. "family" and I adhere strictly to their rules and regulations.

It was not my intention to belittle the efforts of the young men and their Instructor (Tupu Kaiaruna).

The misunderstandings are of a political nature. People in smaller places such as Atiu cannot be expected to realise the implications of the Rules and Regulations of an International Body such as I.T.F.

Taekwon-Do has two main groups:

1. I.T.F. with H/Q in Vienna, Austria under General Choi Hong Hi, founder and President.
2. World Taekwon-Do Federation (WTF) in Seoul, S. Korea under Dr. Un Yong Kim, President.

continued

the quorums

an everyday tale of political folk

tropo

The basic difference between the two bodies is political.

(a) ITF is truly international and does not recognise political boundaries and includes people from socialist bloc Communist countries.

(b) WTF has its HQ in Korea, a country split in two by a political boundary between the South Korean non-Communist government and North Korea which is communist. So the reasons for the division between the two main TKD bodies becomes fairly obvious.

Mr. Tairea who is the chief instructor of the organisation which is currently operating in CIs. comes under the control of Master Young Ku Yun who was formerly part of the ITF body.

He recently left the ITF for his own reasons and now operates as an individual under the title Master Yun's International. He is fully qualified and is a most capable person.

However, upon withdrawing from the ITF Body, he also withdrew from ITF the recognition previously accorded those instructors and students who trained under him.

Fortunately, Mr. Tairea is a fully qualified and competent Instructor.

Instructors, on more occasions than not, have a different style of teaching and different ways of interpreting what they have been taught and this gives way at times to disputes.

I am currently recognised by General Choi Hong Hi and ITF (Documents confirmed by JOURNAL ED.).

I do hope that, for all the students in Mr. Tairea's club, Tupu Mataki (Kaiaruna) particularly, does become, at the appropriate stage after suitable guidance and training from Mr. Tairea, an efficient and fully qualified Instructor of TKD. I am sure he will.

The controversial Master Yun, mentor of the local TKD group run by Tupu Mataki. Yun withdrew from ITF and thereby created a world wide split which in Atiu's case seems to have put two groups of well-meaning youth at loggerheads.

Art and Philosophy

NEXT WEEK:

Maorikava Tere writes on the Art of Taekon-Do and gives the latest news of the NZ side of CIs. TKD.

BY

OWEN LEWIS

Our overseas Sports Correspondent continues his regular column on news and events in the sports world with a special look at our own Cook Islands sportsmen and women throughout the sporting scene.

LEAGUE

As is becoming pretty common place now, CIs League players are hitting the hea-

continued

GRAHAM LOWE

continued

dlines both in NZ and the Rugby League world at large.

Hot on the news given the JOURNAL recently that 1986 CIs. Pacific Cup prop Ricky Cowan is due to move to top Aussie club Manly for a rumoured $35000, comes the latest on the Iro brothers currently on pro contract to top UK club Wigan.

20 year old Kevin (of the Titikaveka Iro family including CIs. test forward Teava) has, of course, been in the news regularly since his all-star test debut in Australia last season.

But this time, it is elder brother Tony who is making the headline splash.

The highly respected former Kiwi coach Grahame Lowe, now at Wigan, rates him as the surprise package among all the current overseas players on contract for the British season.

"I think Tony Iro could turn out the biggest surprise of all," said Lowe in a recent media interview, "he came over here relatively unknown and is not yet as accomplished as Kevin. But he has all the makings."

Kevin and Tony are representing Wigan after the present Kiwi coach Tony "Tank" Gordon approached Lowe to get the brothers placed under Lowe's wing at Wigan.

On the subject of League, Tony Gordon recently told the Christchurch Press that he believes his present squad of hopefuls will lift the Kiwis to the top of the international ladder by next year.

Gordon began his "promising players" squad build-up after receiving $180,000 for the purpose from NZRL.

He claimed that the prospects for the future had looked grim when he first took over the Kiwi post.

"We had nothing coming up," he told reporters. There was nothing to replace the overseas-based test players when they retired."

"Thus we had to get something going. Now we've got camps for 15, 17, 19 and 21 year old players as well as for the seniors."

CRICKET

BORING INTERNATIONAL STYLE

The first test between NZ & England ended in controversy and boredom at Christchurch.

The NZers managed to scramble a draw out of the game with considerable aid from the weather.

Rain delayed much of the fourth day's play and bad light cost an hour on the fifth day.

Going into the 5th day, NZ (out for 158 in their first innings), needed 304 from 82 overs.

After an hour and a half of play NZ were 1 for 37 and the pace continued in like vein until the close when NZ were 4 for 130.

It was one of the most disgusting pieces of time-wasting for paying spectators ever witnessed in modern test history.

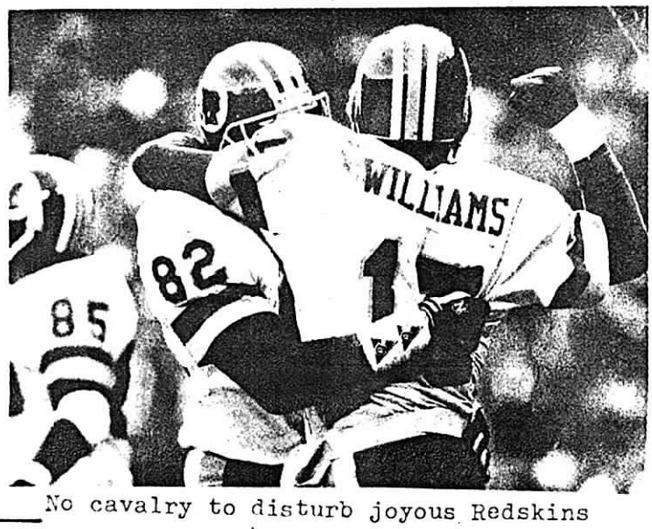
Only up and coming Andrew Jones came out of the game with credit, scoring 54 not out in a controlled innings.

Controversy, as usual, surrounded this English team fresh from their battles with Pakistani and Aussie umpires.

Fast bowler Graham Dilley was twice convinced he had star batsman Martin Crowe caught. Umpire Aldridge turned down both appeals and TV replay evidence seems to indicate he was correct.

After the second incident, Dilley refused to take his jersey from the umpire. The bowler was heard by TV millions to use extremely offensive language to the umpire due to the presence of TV microphones under the pitches. He was fined £250 by the English officials.

AMERICAN FOOTBALL



No cavalry to disturb joyous Redskins

Hundreds of thousands of Washingtonians celebrated the victory two weeks ago of their "Redskins" who anihilated the Denver Broncos 42-10 in the 1988 Super-Bowl, the annual championship of American Football.

The capital city is reported to have looked like a ghost town during the final broadcast live from San Diego, California.

120 million TV viewers watched the final for which ad spots during the game cost $675,000 per 30 seconds!

The many post-match celebrations caused a huge turn-out of riot control police in Washington and some two dozen celebrators ended up receiving hospital treatment.

73,500 fans watched the game in San Diego, many paying up to $400 a ticket on the black market.

In Denver, it was reported that by the end of the first quarter, total silence reigned!

CRICKET

EXCITING PACIFIC STYLE

On a lighter note, a new form of cricket has literally hit its way on to the NZ sporting scene.

The game is a cross between softball and cricket and, although, of course, it has been popular in the Pacific for a long time, it only recently came to the attention of the NZ public at large.

The first Crown and Pacific Cricket Tournament was played at Western Springs, Auckland a couple of weeks ago.

Present at the inaugural tournament were teams from Cook Islands, Tonga, Niue and Samoa.

The uniforms were lavalavas and white shirts.

The bat was a cross between a softball and cricket bat designed especially to produce maximum distance in striking the ball..

Finding each of the hand-made latex rubber balls after each of the powerhouse hits created many problems and an emergency supply had to be flown in from Samoa to complete the tournament.

The game is between 22 players on each side, is extremely fast and exciting and takes little time to finish.

The women's game takes on a new dimension when the "mamas" do the "hitting" and the young girls do the "running".

This makes a lot of sense and lets everyone take part.

This is the true family game and, who knows, we may hear even more of it when internationals between Takutea and Atiu take place!

TYSON - TUBBS

American heavyweight sensation Mike Tyson, recent destroyer of former world champ Larry Holmes, will put his undisputed title next on line against against fellow American Tony Tubbs on March 21 in Tokyo, announced match promoters last week.

Tubbs is the former WBA champion and the forthcoming bout has the recognition of all three world bodies (WBA, WBC and IBF).

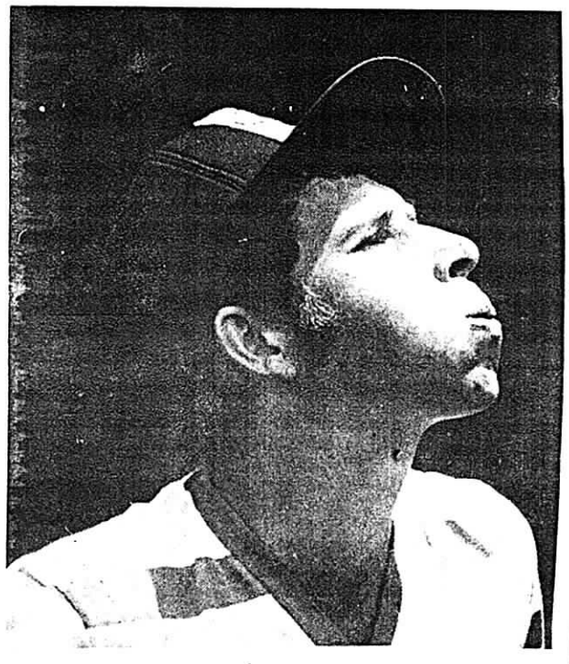
Boxing experts claim that the fight should present no problems for the awesome Tyson.

The 29 year old Tubbs has a career record of one defeat in 24 bouts with 15 knock-outs or TKO's. He lost his WBA title in 1986 to Tim Witherspoon.

The Tyson-Tubbs affair is widely considered a warm-up for "Iron-man" Tyson before his more problematic defence in June against the respected former champion and No.2 ranking Michael Spinks.

Mike Tyson

The technique



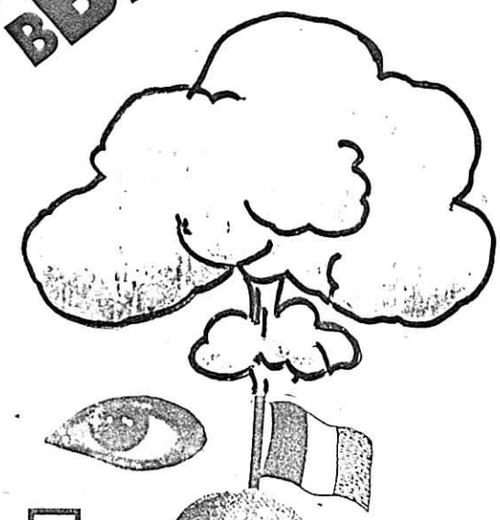
SPITTING GOLD

Mrs. Bishop - avid fan

He practises every breakfast, sport! The kids have learned to duck, eh!

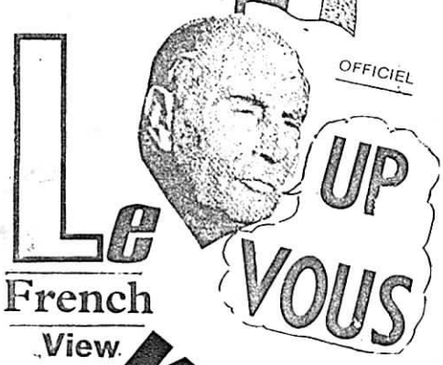
Unlikely to be accepted for Olympic status, the melonseed spitters of the sporting world continue nevertheless to extend the frontiers of their sport ignored by the TV networks and international sports media. Recently Lance Bishop of Coominya, Queensland brought home the world record to the land of Oz after spitting his seed an astounding 9.89m. to break the old record (held by a Frenchman) by a gigantic 1.73m!

BBBooOOOM LIVING



Quel un rotten trick, mes amis! Je refers, of course to un outrageous heap of merde what have been recently published dans le Cock Islands Nems, le Figaro of le Pacifique Sud! Je means un ghastly load of correspondence relating to notre living miracle de la technologie of le mighty Frog Empire....les fantastique bombes which nous are in le process of testing to ensure le safety de all mankind. Je is completement outraged par le looniness de certains si-called paix-niks! Je asks you! Quel idiotie! These are juste le sort of loonies who will be le first to start le grand moan quand les russkies shove un up le sud Pacifique spout. Et je can assure vous that, dans le eventuality of un holocaust, they will be le ones nous shall make sure will pas get le chance pour le shelter derriere le protection of le mighty Frog Umbrelle. Non. Je shall make sure that le commandant dans le Mururoa have un liste de all those who has written un appalling letter to le Cock Islands Nems. They will pas be allowed dans le shelter et, as far as je is concerned, ils can cop un grand lungful de le fall-out dust et book le passage pour le nuclear winter.

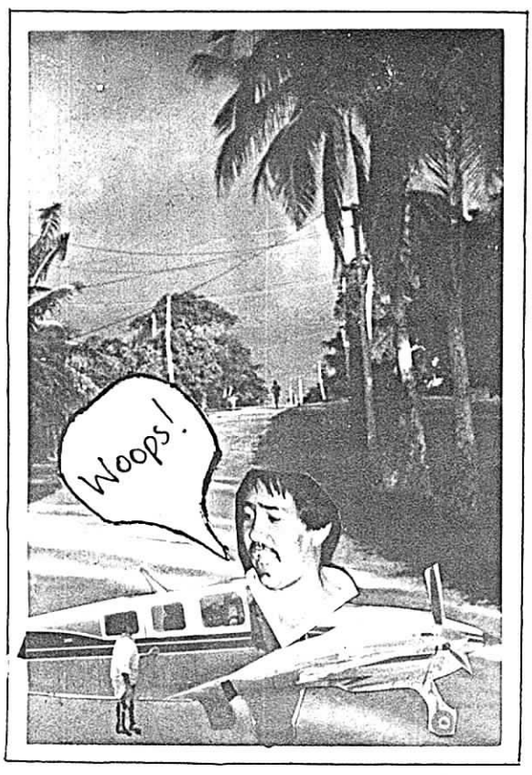
Vive le strontium.

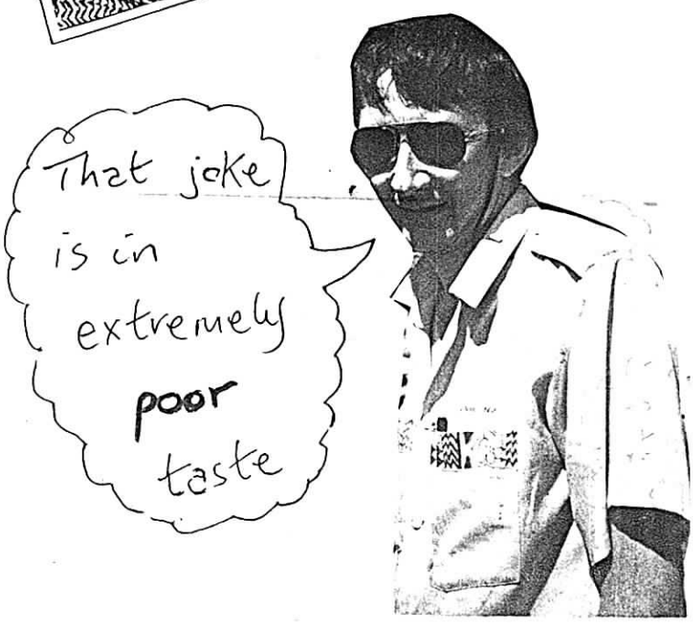


Le French View KER POO OW

MITEY MARTY

Look Ahmed! I know you are just beginning and mean well..... but one hijacked wheel in the back of beyond is unlikely to precipate an instant evacuation of Jerusalem!





THE JOURNAL & THE (Last) WORD

CHRISTIAN STOP PRESS

Met Office reports from behind the Tabernacle predict a continuation of the rushing mighty winds from the North experienced over the last few days.

Silk and Boyd captains have been asked to cast their cargo on the other side.

"Legs down and rigidly fixed apart."

THE MISSIONARY POSITION

The no-risk way
The no-thrills way
Cook Island Airway

For an uneventful experience contact your local agent.

FROM OUR ATIU WAR CORRESPONDENT

NEWS

Relatives of Rarotonga-based MP's accused of building hurricane relief houses on relatives and supporters' land have vigorously denied allegations of malpractice.

Said one outraged third cousin on the mother's side, "it is a rotten anti-government trick by opposition troublemakers. I personally believe I saw a second cousin of Geoffrey Henry deliberately erecting a hurricane relief house on a Minister's land at midnight last Friday."

"This sort of thing, claimed the relative, "is going on all the time."

Government supporters are reported to be incensed at the recent opposition practice of depositing large numbers of hurricane relief houses on innocent Ministers' relatives' land.

"We propose to take serious action," said a government spokesman, adding that MOW have been instructed that no one but them may put hurricane relief houses on Ministers' relatives' land.

Alandowners meeting called by Vanilla Project "Committee" members last week reported latest developments in the multi-million dollar affair last week.

The substance of of the "committee" report was in Maori and precisely as is reported in the accompanying JOURNAL report, according to landowners.